

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY North Korea

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Publications Distribution Agency
2. Magazines and Books in Circulation

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REFERENCES

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Publications Distribution Agency, controlled by the North Korean postal administration, functions as the central distributor of government-approved newspapers and magazines throughout North Korea. This agency accepts subscriptions and is responsible for the delivery of the publications to the subscribers.¹ The political security unit of government agencies is also authorized to accept subscriptions which are then turned in to the Publication Distribution Agency for processing. 25X1
2. The major North Korean newspapers are published in limited quantities. Each bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs receives only four copies of the officially sanctioned newspapers. Each of the principal railroad stations receives a few copies which are sold chiefly to traveling government officials. Individual subscriptions to publications such as Minchu Choson (3046/0031/2600/7639) (Democratic Korea) and Notong Sinmun (0525/0520/2450/5113) (Labor Press) are difficult to obtain, while subscriptions to Kaep'yok Sinmun (7030/7075/2450/5113) (Creation Press), official organ of the Ch'ongu-tang (7230/0645/7825), which has a smaller circulation than the major newspapers, are easily acquired. Persons can also subscribe without difficulty to the local newspapers which are circulated in each province.
3. Magazines published in North Korea include the following:
 - a. Kunnocha (0530/0525/5074) (The Worker), a monthly published by the Notong Sinmun press, containing essays slanted toward the Korean Labor Party (KLP) line and aimed at assisting the party in its indoctrination program. The magazine is distributed to every government agency and, in limited quantities, to the general public.
 - b. Inmin (0086/3046) (The People), a monthly published by the Minchu Choson press, containing the complete text of all speeches made by government officials with lengthy explanations of each speech.
 - c. Hwapo (3973/1032) (The Graphic), published by the Soviet-Korean Cultural Association in richly colored off-set printing, containing stories of the cultural life in the USSR.

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- d. Kyokuk (2403/5148) (Education), a monthly published by the Minchu Choson press which generally carries articles on the educational system in the USSR and related educational topics. The magazine is widely read in North Korean educational circles.
- e. Atong Chapchi (0348/4547/7177/6125) (The Magazine for Children) published by the Juvenile Journal Publication Institute which consists of richly illustrated children's stories.
4. The majority of the bookstores in North Korea are operated by the government and are stocked with books of Soviet or North Korean origin. Some bookstores are privately owned and operated and deal in second-hand books, most of which are medical or engineering reference books printed in Japanese.
5. The following books are required reading for all government officials and are currently being used as manuals for the indoctrination of government employees and KLP members in Party theory and dogma. Persons receiving government support are also required to read these books. The general public shows little interest in them, partly because of the dull subject matter and partly because of the tedious and ponderous style in which they are written.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher and Date</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Price In Won</u>	<u>Use</u>
Stalin's Complete Works	Foreign Language Publication Institute, Moscow, 1954	Josef Stalin	170	Indoctrination material used by government agencies
Problems of Leninism	Foreign Language Publication Institute, Moscow	Josef Stalin		Popular with North Korean Communists
Life of Lenin, Life of Stalin	KLP Press			Instructional material for Communist indoctrination
Works of Marx and Engels	KLP Press	Unknown	90	Instructional material for Communist indoctrination
Lenin	KLP Press, February 1955 (translated from the Russian)	Unknown		
Complete Works of KIM Il-song	KLP Press	Unknown	100-180	Instructional material for Communist indoctrination
Complete Works of MAO Tse-tung	October, 1954	MAO Tse-tung		

6. The following novels by YI Ki-yong (2621/1/3057), published by the KLP press, are widely read in North Korea:
- a. Tuman-gang, which sells for 140 won, propagandizes the struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie, telling the story of a tenant farmer who rose rapidly to a high position through the favor of the government. The novel, which has a strong romantic appeal, brought prompt literary eminence to the author.
- b. "The Ground", which relates the story of a male servant in the home of a rich landlord, who, through fortuitous circumstances, was elected to the assembly when the Communist regime was established and who fell in love with the landlord's mistress.²

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
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7. The Russian poet Mayakov³ is widely read, especially by students. Poems extolling Communism bearing such titles as "Stalin," "Lenin," "The Membership Card," "The Sun," make up the bulk of his works. Textbooks of his poetry have been distributed to schools.

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1.  Comment.  reporting on mail facilities in the Ch'ongjin area,  mention the distribution of newspapers by post offices in North Korea.

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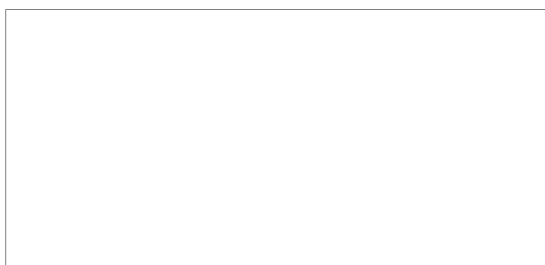
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2.  Comment. The erotic flavor of the story may account for the novel's popularity.

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3.  Comment. Probably the poet referred to is Vladimir Mayakovskiy who died in 1930.

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